

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS
PAMPHLET DESCRIBING M453

**Despatches From
United States Consuls
in Jerusalem, Palestine
1856-1906**



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, 1973

RICHARD NIXON
President of the United States

ARTHUR F. SAMPSON
Administrator of General Services

JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States

The records reproduced in the microfilm publication
are from
General Records of the Department of State
Record Group 59
in the National Archives Building

DESPATCHES FROM UNITED STATES CONSULS
IN JERUSALEM, PALESTINE
1856-1906

On the 5 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced 9 volumes that contain mainly despatches, with enclosures, addressed to the Department of State by U.S. consular officials at Jerusalem, Palestine, between November 6, 1856, and August 20, 1906.

The despatches, with few exceptions, are arranged in chronological order. At the beginning of Roll 1 are reproduced selected pages from 17 State Department registers of correspondence that constitute a register of despatches from Jerusalem between November 6, 1856, and August 20, 1906.

Interspersed throughout the series are such documents as occasional memoranda prepared by other State Department officials and letters from private citizens of the United States.

On September 15, 1832, David Darmon was appointed as consular agent for Jerusalem and Jaffa under the jurisdiction of the U.S. consul at Constantinople. The consulate at Jerusalem, with a consular agency at Jaffa, was opened on November 6, 1856, and John Warren Gorham was appointed as consul.

Some of the subjects to which the despatches relate are assistance and protection for Jews who were naturalized citizens of the United States but resided in the Jerusalem consulate district; protection, assistance, and aid given tourists and pilgrims visiting the Holy Land, and the investigation of detention, injury, robbery, and restriction of these visitors; activities of the consular agency at Jaffa; reports about archeological discoveries; construction of a carriage road and a railroad between Jaffa and Jerusalem; ship arrivals and departures at Jaffa; cholera epidemics and quarantines; crop failures caused by drought and insect plagues; religious controversies among Christian groups and between Christian and Moslem communities; Turkish political and military activities; maintenance of hospitals and schools in Jerusalem by foreign governments and agencies; importation of petroleum products from Russia and the United States; visits by U.S. dignitaries and European royalty; the wreck of a Russian steamship entering the harbor at Jaffa; and the problems of two religious colonies composed of U.S. citizens.

Some despatches are covering letters for enclosures of a routine nature forwarded by consular officials to the Department of State, such as reports on consular fees received, trade, and agriculture. In accordance with departmental policy adopted in 1870 most statistical enclosures were removed from their covering

letters and distributed among other records of the Department of State or sent to other departments of the Government.

The records reproduced in this microcopy are part of records in the National Archives designated as Record Group 59, General Records of the Department of State.

In the same record group are several series of volumes containing documents on relations between some of the areas that were part of the Ottoman Empire and the United States. There are microcopies available on despatches from U.S. consular officials at Aleppo, Syria, 1835-40 (T-188); Alexandretta (Iskenderun), Turkey, 1896-1906 (T-504); Alexandria, Egypt, 1835-73 (T-45); Beirut, Lebanon, 1836-1906 (T-367); Brusa (Brousa), Turkey, 1837-40 (T-711); Bucharest, Romania, 1866-85; 1892-1906 (T-285); Cairo, Egypt, 1864-1906 (T-41); Candia, Crete, Greece, 1836-41 (T-374); Canea, Crete, Greece, 1832-74 (T-190); Constantinople (Istanbul), Turkey, 1820-1906 (T-194); Cyprus, 1835-78 (T-463); Erzerum (Erzurum), Turkey, 1895-1904 (T-568); Galatz, Romania, 1858-69 (T-384), for June 23, 1864, see Paramaribo, Netherlands Guiana (Roll 5 of T-226), and for 1870-85 see Bucharest (Roll 3 of T-285); Harput (Kharput), Turkey, 1895-1906 (T-279); Port Said, Egypt, 1870-76 (T-658); Sivas, Turkey, 1886-1906 (T-681); Smyrna (Izmir), Turkey, 1802-1906 (T-238); and Trebizond, Turkey, 1904-6 (T-700), for July 29-Nov. 18, 1869, see Constantinople (Roll 16 of T-194). Complementary to the despatches are instructions to consuls.

There are also copies of instructions from the Department of State to U.S. Ministers to Turkey, 1823-1906 (Rolls 162-169 of Microcopy 77); notes from the Department to Legations of the Italian States, Greece, and Turkey, 1834-68; of Turkey and Greece, 1867-94; and of Turkey and Romania in the United States, 1880-1906 (Rolls 61, 96, and 97, respectively, of Microcopy 99); despatches from U.S. Ministers to Turkey to the Department, 1818-1906 (Microcopy 46); and notes from the Turkish Legation in the United States to the Department, 1867-1906 (T-815). Also related to matters concerning Turkey are communications to special agents of the United States from the Department, 1823-86 (Rolls 152 and 154 of Microcopy 77), and some records among communications from special agents to the Department, 1794-1906 (Microcopy 37).

The method of arranging the consular and diplomatic series cited above was discontinued in 1906 when the Department of State adopted the practice of filing incoming and outgoing correspondence, memoranda, and other documents by subject.

In the State Department decimal file, 1910-29, also in Record Group 59, are additional records relating to Palestine. Some documents are in the series relating to internal affairs of Turkey (Rolls 79-88 of Microcopy 353), and other documents

are in the series concerning political relations between Turkey and the United States (Roll 8 of Microcopy 365).

In Record Group 84, Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State, in the National Archives, are records originally kept at U.S. diplomatic and consular posts. Among them are records of the U.S. Legation (later Embassy) in Turkey, 1830-1935; of the consular posts in Palestine at Haifa, 1872-1917; Jaffa, 1866-1917; and Jerusalem, 1856-1935; and of consular posts in areas that were part of the Ottoman Empire.

The records reproduced in this microcopy were prepared for filming by Ralph E. Huss, who also wrote these introductory remarks and provided the other editorial material.

CONTENTS

The volumes of despatches addressed to the Department of State by U.S. consular officials at Jerusalem between November 6, 1856, and August 20, 1906, are distributed on the rolls of this microfilm publication as follows:

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>
1	Register	Nov. 6, 1856-Aug. 20, 1906
	1	Nov. 6, 1856-Dec. 31, 1863
	2	Mar. 31, 1864-Mar. 31, 1870
2	3	Apr. 30, 1870-Oct. 31, 1873
	4	Dec. 3, 1873-Dec. 20, 1879
3	5	Jan. 2, 1880-Dec. 27, 1885
4	6	Jan. 2, 1886-Dec. 20, 1889
	7	Jan. 1, 1890-Oct. 24, 1892
5	8	Jan. 2, 1893-Dec. 31, 1897
	9	Jan. 3, 1898-Aug. 20, 1906